



New England Fertility Society

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Selwyn P. Oskowitz, M.D. - 1990

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Melvin L. Taymor, M.D.* - 1992
Donald P. Goldstein, M.D. - 1994
R. Nuran Turksoy-Marcus, M.D.* - 1998
John D. Biggers, Ph.D.* - 2004

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Susan Lewis Cooper, Ed.D.* - 2001
Robert A. Hunt, M.D.* - 2002

* Deceased

May 5, 2021

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the New England Fertility Society (NEFS), I am writing to express our strong support for LD 1539, *An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care*. Although the World Health Organization, American Medical Association and other major organizations all define infertility as a disease, there is still widespread inequity in fertility care. Health insurance policies in Maine should provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care and treatment, as well as medically necessary fertility preservation.

NEFS is an inclusive, voluntary, non-profit organization providing continuing education for fertility professionals throughout New England. The society is dedicated to promoting awareness, standards of information, and assistance to providers and ultimately patients in our region.

Since our members are dedicated to providing fertility care, we witness firsthand the physical and emotional impacts on those struggling to grow their families. There can also be a significant financial burden when individuals and couples do not have fertility insurance. The expansion of coverage outlined in LD 1539 will help people avoid this added worry and will improve access to care overall in Maine.

Thank you for your consideration of our written testimony.

Sincerely,

Shruthi Mahalingaiah, MD
President, New England Fertility Society